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Opening of Exhibition of Works of Art from Oberlin College, Ohio

Oberlin College, Ohio was named after an Alsatian pastor and philosopher. It was the first college in the U.S. to accept coeducation, and also a pioneer in refusing to discriminate against students on racial grounds. Before our Civil War, it enjoyed the reputation of being a safe haven for runaway slaves; some 30 of its professors were once jailed for abetting an escape.

I think an interesting sidelight on its history, with which I am personally familiar, is the connection with it of its greatest benefactor, Dr. Hall, inventor of the electrolytic process responsible for the successful commercial manufacture of aluminium.

As an Oberlin student, while engaged in chemical research with an entirely different objective, Hall inadvertently discovered the process to which I have referred. ~~Most inventors are supposed to~~ draw, in a material sense, little profit from their skills. Such was not the case with ~~Hall~~ him. His generous and ~~sympathetic~~ financial backers insisted upon his retaining a large interest in their corporation. Oberlin was the ~~intimate~~ beneficiary of ~~most~~ much of his ~~large~~ impressive fortune.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEW BY: REW DATE: 6-17-81
EXCISE(S)
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P.A. OF EXEMPTIONS

But let us turn to other things. Today's exhibition comprises 78 items from the College's art collection. As you will observe from reading the catalogue, many branches of the visual arts are represented, and, often, brilliantly.

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I have, I fear, at boring length tried to present my case. I now come to the point. Will the Foreign Office kindly advise me to what Governmental Department I should address a request to kill crows during the nesting season for ducks? Those wily black birds cannot be trapped or poisoned efficaciously. I realize that shooting at them might provoke a public scandal. If, nevertheless, I could gain permission to attack them with a pistol, fitted with a silencer, I could at least frighten them away during the comparatively brief period of duck egg incubation.

I have a somewhat kindred problem for which I seek no remedy at this time. It concerns wood pigeons. They are all very well in a pie, but not desirable suburban guests. Because of their careless defecatory habits, they ruin what might otherwise be agreeable outdoor cocktail parties. I suppose it would be best to reserve consideration of this for possible future reference.

May I then request you informally to draw the attention of the Foreign Minister to this affair, with the hope that he may see fit to grant me permission to pursue it formally with the appropriate agency of Her Majesty's Government?

Sincerely yours,

David Bruce

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Barbara Hutton had been taken by E over her former house, which she so generously gave to the United States Government, before lunch. She had not been in it since her donation of it in the early 1940's. I was enthralled by her description of what was the disposition of the rooms on the first floor before they were altered for ambassadorial residence. I was horrified by the tale of what she had left in the way of furnishings which have now disappeared, including what were represented to be quite a few famous and excessively rare Chinese objects. She is still good looking--once she was beautiful.

John Kelly came to see me this afternoon. He lives most of the time on his place in Norfolk. When I was in Paris, he was our official "greeter", and a most useful one. His specialty was looking after Congressmen. In this regard, he was singularly successful, because of his long suffering good nature. He allowed himself to be freely imposed upon, since visitors often insisted on his taking them to nightclubs. In spite of most of them having sackfuls of counterpart currency, he was sometimes left to pick up the check after a gala and extravagant evening. He found he could no longer afford this, and obtained a transfer to serve in London in a similar capacity. After a year or two of this, he wisely selected country life.

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Jean Lambert came to see me this afternoon. This evening I went to the American Club to a farewell party for Don Smith. Tonight E and I went for dinner and dancing at the Spanish Ambassador's house in Belgrave Square.

Jean Lambert is making progress with the reorganization of his business interests. He has persuaded Ellsworth Bunker to be one of the Directors of his new corporation. The American Club reception for Don Smith was a howling success. Tom Keating, the President, made a speech presenting Don with a silver box. Mounted on a platform behind the bar, Smi ity and touching farewell. He is one of the most popular Americans ever to ed e

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